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Recently the Chinese Communists have purchased the following vessels; CANADIAN FIR, SPRING BANK, EASEY, ASBJORN, EASTERT, SUREY PRINCE, LONGFORD, KIVERRITIS, HEREFORD, YANGTZE BREEZE, WISHFORD, TORRES BREEZE.

These vessels total more than 70,000 Gross Register Tons, and represent a substantial addition to the Chinese Communist merchant fleet. It is believed that all of the above vessels have been integrated into the Chinese fleet.

In approximately the same period as the above purchases the Chinese have announced the addition of the BO P'ING 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 56, to the North Coast fleet. The total tonnages of these vessels is unknown but appears to be of the same magnitude as the tonnage of the vessels purchased by the Chinese.

The logical conclusion from the preceding is that the Chinese have redesignated all of the purchased vessels

However this office is unable to find any positive identification of any and the possibility exists that some of the series named may be domestic construction.

We would greatly appreciate any comments or information you might be able to make which would help resolve this problem.